



News Release

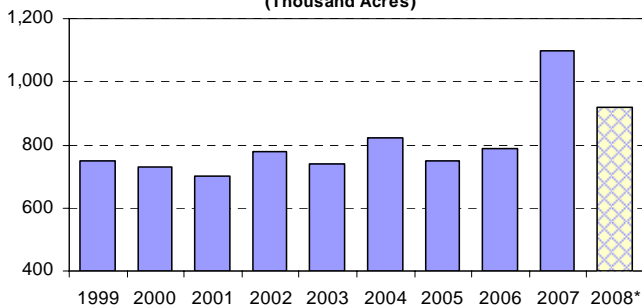
Cooperating with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
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March 31, 2008

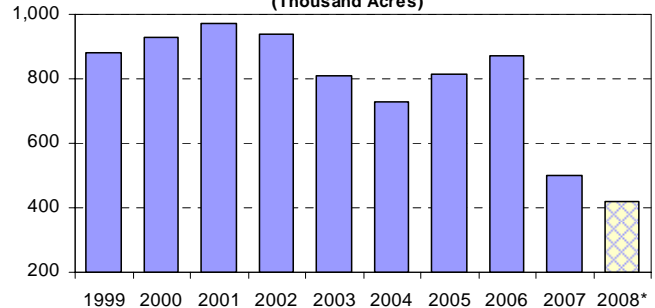
2008 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS IN NORTH CAROLINA

- ◆ **Corn** plantings are expected to total 920,000 acres in 2008; down 16 % from 2007.
- ◆ **Cotton** growers intend to plant 420,000 acres in 2008; 16 % below last year, and the lowest since 1993.
- ◆ **Flue-cured tobacco** growers expect to plant 168,000 acres in 2008; up 1.2% from 2007.
- ◆ **Burley tobacco** growers expect to plant 3,500 acres in 2008; down 500 acres from 2007.
- ◆ **Soybean** plantings, at 1.60 million acres, are expected to increase 13% from 2007, and the highest since 1989.
- ◆ **Peanut** growers in the State intend to plant 86,000 acres in 2008; down 7% from the planted acreage in 2007.
- ◆ **Sweetpotato** growers intend to plant 47,000 acres, up from 44,000 in 2007, highest since 1950.
- ◆ **Hay** producers expect to cut 720,000 acres in 2008; up 3% from 2007.
- ◆ **Winter wheat** plantings in North Carolina set a record high, at 820,000 acres, up 30% from 2007.

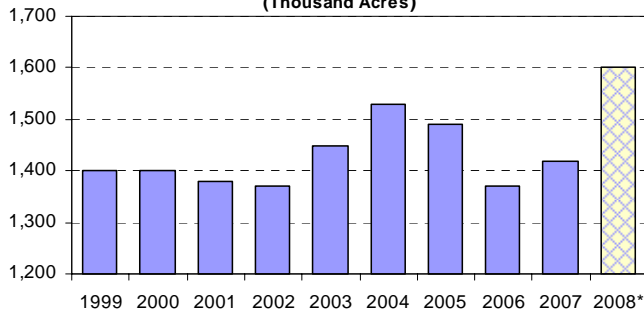
Corn Plantings
(Thousand Acres)



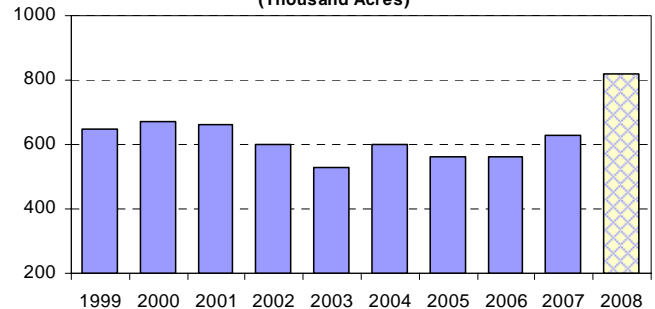
Upland Cotton Plantings
(Thousand Acres)



Soybean Plantings
(Thousand Acres)



Winter Wheat Plantings
(Thousand Acres)

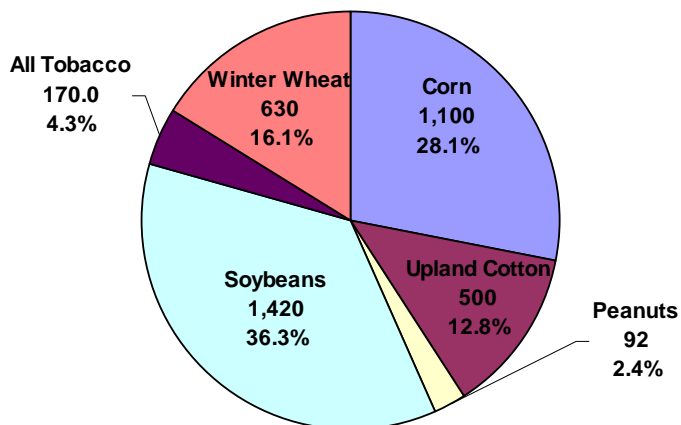


*Intentions

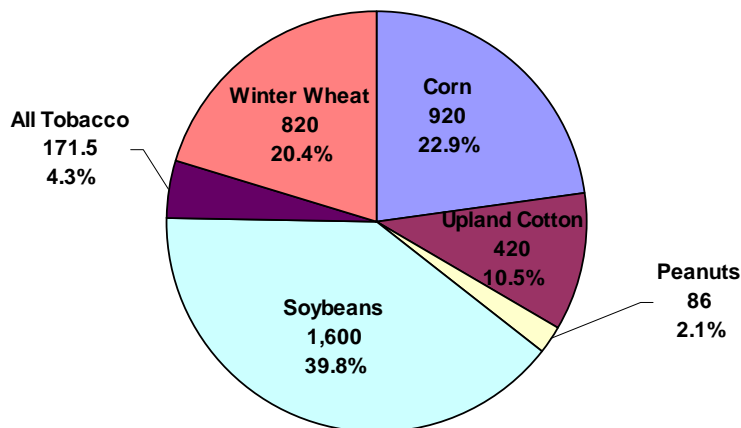
PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS						
CROPS	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	2007	2008 Intentions	Percent Change	2007	2008 Intentions	Percent Change
	Thousand Acres		+/-	Thousand Acres		+/-
Barley ³	22	20	-9	4,020	4,147	+3
Corn, All	1,100	920	-16	93,600	86,014	-8
Cotton, All ¹	500	420	-16	10,830	9,390	-13
Hay, All ²	699	720	+3	61,625	60,583	-2
Oats ³	50	60	+20	3,760	3,420	-9
Peanuts	92	86	-7	1,230	1,430	+16
Sorghum, All	15	19	+27	7,718	7,415	-4
Soybeans	1,420	1,600	+13	63,631	74,793	+18
Sweetpotatoes	44.0	47.0	+7	100.6	103.8	+3
Tobacco: Burley ²	4.0	3.5	-13	106.3	97.2	-9
Tobacco: Flue-cured ²	166	168	+1	223	221	-1
Wheat, Winter ³	630	820	+30	44,987	46,840	+4

¹ U.S. includes Upland and American-Pima. ² Data for hay and tobacco represent harvested acres. ³ Includes acreage planted in preceeding fall.

**2007 Planted Acres and Percent Total
for Select Commodities***
(Thousand Acres)



**2008 Planted Acres and Percent Total
for Select Commodities***
(Thousand Acres)



*Tobacco data represents harvested acres.